

Nov. 29 /96

## This month MM celebrates an employer who's hanging in with his employee.

While I was paying a repair bill for work done on my jalopy, Bob, King of His Service Station and All He Surveys, asked me if I had enough work (gardening tends to be slow in the winter). I told him I'm still busy, hoping it'll slow down soon... bunch of other stuff I'm working on etc. etc. He asked, like what? So I told him about my Movie Monday program. Hadn't heard of it. So I gave him the brief overview. Told him my reason for being involved - have manic/depression, have spent time in the hospital.

He said, "Well I've got nothing but respect for those people at EMP. One of our guys got into trouble a while back, they found him a bed for a couple of weeks. He's back out there pumping gas like a bat out of hell. [or some other colourful expression, I'm not good at exact transcripts]

"Good on you, Bob!" A lot of employers dump their workers when they experience a mental illness. That's doubly difficult - an ego busting illness *plus* unemployment.

He said, "Hell, no. I see it just like a broken leg or anything else."

From my perspective, meaningful work, (whatever that is for an individual), is the best thing for getting back and staying on track. A positive employer's support can make a huge difference in a person's recovery from a temporary bout of mental illness.

I don't know know which of his employees has the problem or what it is - don't really want to know - but I don't see anyone slacking out there on the pumps. A month and a half later (I checked before typing this from my rough notes) he's still part of the team. Bob will probably be rewarded for his support and open-mindedness with a loyal and conscientious employee.

*Way to go Bob!*

Best Regards,  
Bruce Saunders  
Jan. 10/97

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